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Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 & Alanahalli Survey No.41

All hurdles will be cleared by month-end, says MLA Ramdas

Good news for residents of these MUDA Layouts who have suffered mentally and financially for the last five years

Krishnaraja Constituency MLA S.A. Ramdas addressing a press conference at Pathrakarthara Bhavan in city this morning as President of Kurubarahalli Survey No. 4 Kshemabhivruddhi Sangha B.P. Manjunath looks on.

Mysuru, June 11 (PM&BCT)- The State Government's efforts to end the Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 land row that has been lingering for over five years is set to see a logical end in the coming days and over 25,000 property owners of Siddhartha Layout, Alanahalli, J.C. Nagar, K.C. Layout and Income Tax Layout will be relieved as their properties will be removed from 'B-Kharab' (Government land) classification.

"The declassification of CITB (City Improvement Trust Board) and MUDA (Mysuru Urban Development Authority) Layouts coming under Kurubarahalli Survey No. 4 and Alanahalli Survey No. 41 from B-Kharab is likely to happen by the end of this month and the official announcement will be made in Mysuru by District Minister S.T. Somashekar and Revenue Minister R. Ashoka. All hurdles for the vexed land issue have been cleared and even there is no case pending in the Court of Law," said Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas under whose Constituency these lands fall.

Addressing a press conference at Pathrakarthara Bhavan this morning along with President of Kurubarahalli Survey Number 4 Kshemabhivruddhi Sangha and BJP National Council Member B.P. Manjunath, Ramdas said that as all the hurdles have been cleared, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has directed the Mysuru District Minister and Revenue Minister to settle the issue once for all and save the residents from further trouble.

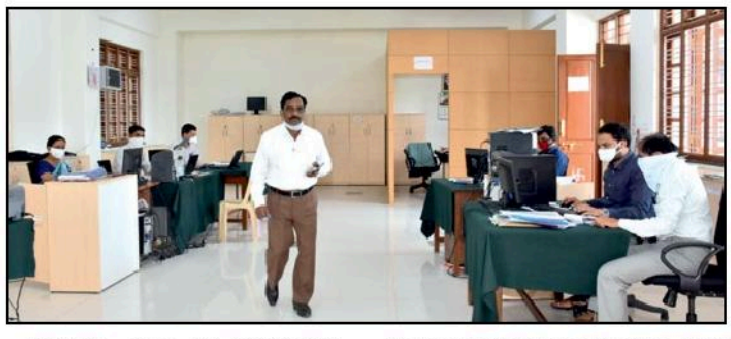
354.29 acres in question

Over 205.09 acres of Survey No. 4, 105 acres of K.C. Layout, and 44.20 acres of J.C. Layout (354.29 acres) will be freed from B-Kharab classification and will be handed over to MUDA free of cost, the MLA said.

As a result of people's struggle, the Chief Minister's Office (H.D. Kumaraswamy) vide its letter No. CM/52430/REP-4EM/2018 dated Sept. 17, 2018, had directed the MUDA Commissioner to take further action in respect of the previous Siddharamaiah Government's Cabinet decision in this regard.

(See HURDLES on page 6)

Six Departments shift to new DC Office Complex



Mysuru, June 11 (RK&DM)- Over two years after the then Chief Minister Siddharamaiah inaugurated the new Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex on Bannur Road in Siddarthanagar, six Government Departments have shifted to the new facility.

The Offices, which have started functioning from the new DC Office are — Office of the Deputy Director of Land Records, District Urban Development Centre, Office of the District Statistical Officer, Department of Backward Communities and Minorities Welfare, Food and Civil Supplies Department and Muzrai Department.

In a bid to avoid the public from running about from one office to another at different places and to make all District Offices function under one roof, the new Complex was constructed at a cost of Rs.84.66 crore at Siddarthanagar, which was inaugurated in March 2018 when Siddharamaiah was the CM.

(See COMPLEX on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

Work From Home side effects: The lockdown lifestyle woes

By Shadan Muneer

When life demands a reset from its routine it takes time to adjust. The regular morning alarm, the muffled protests of drowsy children, harried mothers, office-going rush, last-minute preparations and winding up, honking office vehicles, the swear-heavy and sweaty commute to work and the after-work hangouts at coffee shops and malls, pubs and watering holes late into the night — all paused by a micro-organism.

Coronavirus, our unwelcome guest, prompted major changes in life as Work From Home (WFH) became the new normal. People embraced new routines and norms. The world witnessed its impact on all facets of life and has changed the way people work, especially those in the organised sector.

WFH has been implemented across most organisations. While the IT sector is familiar with the WFH concept, it is a relatively new experience for employees working in various other sectors. Adapting to it will require discipline, time management and prioritising.

Resistance to change is common with the sudden shift of working environment, adding to the stress is the fear and anxiety related with safeguarding oneself and families from the threat of Coronavirus and the uncertainty of job security and layoffs is taking a toll on the mental health of employees.

A lot of people working across different sectors across the city have been working remotely to keep the services uninterrupted during the lockdown. As people mentally prepare themselves for what seems like a long period of working remotely, we caught up with professionals across the city to get a reality dose on what's working and what's not.

A perfect balance to work and life in comfort zones

Madhu Kumar, Associate Manager of an IT Company says, "We at the IT sector have adopted WFH model and have been providing business to clients without lowering quality and productivity. Initially we had our share of challenges with the WFH concept with regard to internet connectivity and power outages. Learning from the experience, we have now provided dongles to our employees, paying up for their broadband services and also UPS rents for their desktops to maintain uninterrupted services."

He further says, "In terms of productivity, we have been quite successful as each employee is given a task which is to be completed within a limited time and monitored with regular performance conversations with managers — most tasks are accomplished virtually using technology. We are also leveraging video and audio conferencing meetings in lieu of face-to-face meetings. With WFH having worked for employees it appears as if we have found a perfect balance to work and life in our comfort zones," he explains.

"Our company is functional with limited staff as per the Government guidelines and even after the lockdown is fully lifted we will start off only with the required staff and work in staggered shifts and increase the numbers once things start getting back to normal," he reveals.

More time with family and more time to exercise

Dr. Raja Gopal, a leading Psychiatrist, says, "There are certain issues associated with WFH where the usual office routine and the work structure gets disrupted while working from home and it gets difficult to stick to a routine and with the personal freedom on hand one tends to follow a more flexible schedule. With the current situation not allowing us to step out more often leads to stress, people are also missing out on the regular social and recreational activities while they are at home."

"Loneliness by being away from friends and family can also lead to anxiety. Working from home, juggling work and companionship can become a strenuous task," quotes the doctor. He further says, "It is best to treat work from home as you would treat working from office, fix hours that works best for you and plan your work accordingly, prioritise your task, maintain discipline, stick to a routine and make the best use of technology to make work easier."

"Do make time to connect with your loved ones, it is important to keep taking small breaks in between, reward yourself with a cup of tea/ coffee or a snack to keep yourself energised and give your body some rest. Get good sleep and maintain a balanced diet," he advises.

He adds, "WFH also comes with its set of advantages like personal freedom, building your own working schedule, no distractions from colleagues and zero commute which will allow you to spend more time with family and more time to exercise which in turn will help you stay fit both mentally and physically."

Family distractions with children and pets around

Poornima, working at a Software Company, states, "Working patterns have definitely shifted, like many other tech firms our company has also embraced remote working, we are working at less than 33 percent of the workforce. There are benefits and drawbacks attached with this new practice for both employees and organisations, the plus point is that we get to schedule our work time that gives us greater control and we can prioritise what needs to be tackled first, can take breaks at any moment, eat freshly-cooked food for lunch at any time and can also stay in comfy clothes."

"WFH also saves us from unwanted distractions in office, traffic woes and travel time is saved. The flipside to it is that large number of the workforce don't have proper work desks/chairs at their homes or face network issues. The company is responsible to provide connectivity and portable equipment to them. Lack of focus, family distractions especially with children and pets within households are some of the drawbacks" she quotes.

Texts and emails cannot replace in-person meetings

The WFH scheme has been rather challenging for some sectors. Rakesh, the CEO of a Casement Factory says, "The pandemic and the subsequent lockdown has impacted on our factory's production and sales. In the past 2 months, everything had come to a standstill and only the sales and marketing teams were working from home. We rely on social interactions and body language to understand customers for sales. Passing out information about the product through phone or video-calling doesn't work. Absence of meetings and discussions with colleagues and customers has impacted the productivity," opines the CEO.

"With a lot of production midway and payments pending, it is difficult to convince and reassure the customers on supplies during these uncertain times and when it comes to the balance payments, the recovery was tough. Phone calls, texts and emails cannot replace the in-person meetings. Remote working has not worked much for us but maintaining social distancing is the need of the hour," he adds.

Proactive engagement for sustained productivity

While many have the option of WFH, there are certain sectors listed under essential services who remained operational throughout the lockdown as per the Government directive. One such being the banking sector.

"With advanced technology in digital banking lot of simplifications were introduced to our customers, services were offered online through certain links and applications to make sure that the customer services are not hampered during the lockdown. We also updated them about the iMobile, internet banking and WhatsApp banking for their convenience. Teams working in staggered shifts have been provided with internal apps to access to customer details to deal with them, pre-approved loans, insurances and investments have been covered online," says Prasanna Kumar, Manager of a private sector bank.

He further says, "From managerial perspective, we have to ensure constant and proactive engagement for productivity to be sustained and also keep employees motivated to dispel anxiety, video-conference calls every morning with a common objective and a sense of community is created."

"Initially during the lockdown we worked with minimal staff but walk-in customers have increased in the past week and we will add the staff as per the requirement. There are employees who have voluntarily requested to allow them to work from office space because of personal distractions, natural challenges and network issues," he says.

Completing work at home became a long process

Ashwin, employed at a Telecom Company, who is back to working from the office space after having worked from home for seven weeks says, "It was for the first time that I and all my family members were at home at a time and were forced to work from home. Initially I was finding it difficult to work because of lack of space and privacy as our home had turned into workplace and I wasn't comfortable working with people looking over my shoulder and at the work front with the absence of superiors. Completing work became a long process while dealing with the customers. I am happy to be back at the office as I get inspired seeing others working and I like office atmosphere," he says.

As the uncertainty looms over when things would go back to being the same as the pre-pandemic times, one has to realise that new situations warrant new skills and new adaptation techniques. To embrace change as the only constant and to leverage resources available to one's advantage is the key to succeed in these turbulent times.

VOICE OF THE READER

Install automatic street light controllers to save energy and money

Sir,

Apropos to the letter 'Maintain street lights: Conserve electricity' by Prof. B.S. Shankara (*SOM* dated June 8). Similar to the street lights in the city limits, the street lights on Outer Ring Road (ORR) are being switched on early wasting the electricity.

The pathetic condition was non-payment of dues that resulted in darkness on 42-km-long ORR for several months. These were switched on only with the intervention of District in-charge Minister very recently.

There was a lack of clarity on who will pay the pending electricity bills for the earlier period amounting to Rs. 1.5 crore to Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC). Thanks to the District Minister for solving the dispute and guiding the MCC and MUDA to share the bill equally and not to keep pending in the future.

However, recently I saw street lights glowing on the Ring Road at 6 pm itself, and there was a good amount of daylight at that time. Instead of switching on and switching off of street lights at a fixed time in the day, a lot of electricity and money can be saved if street lights are regulated as per the requirement. For this, automatic street light controllers or smart street light system can be installed, and the cost can be shared by both MCC and MUDA equally, as done for the payment of electricity bill for the street lights.

These units can be programmed based on the availability of daylight. A similar system of street lights that switch on automatically when it is dark and switch off when daylight starts in the morning was installed in New Delhi recently. This type of system may be planned not only for the Ring Road, but also for the entire city to reduce the money for electricity consumption considerably, and to save energy, which is the need of the hour.

— Dr. S.V.N. Vijayendra
on e-mail

Roopanagar
9.6.2020

MLC up in arms against shifting of six Government First Grade Colleges

Mysuru, June 11- JD(S) MLC Marithibbegowda has warned the Government against shifting of six Government First Grade Colleges located in his Constituency, citing poor admissions.

In a letter written to Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan, who is also the Higher Education Minister, Marithibbegowda, who represents South Teachers Constituency in the Legislative Council, urged the Government to cancel the order shifting six First Grade Colleges to other places.

Noting that the Government has decided to relocate six Government First Grade Colleges coming under the Directorate of Collegiate Education, which have less than 100 students each, he said that five of these Colleges are located in his Constituency, including the ones at Hanur, Belur, Hallimysore, Sakaleshpur and Gundlupet taluks.

Marithibbegowda

The Government has ordered the shifting of the College at Hanur in Chamarajanagar district, which has 325 students. Pointing out that Hanur College is located in a five acre campus, he said that the College is catering to the needs of students in the region that covers a vast geographical area and in this backdrop, the shifting of the College is not a wise decision.

Likewise, the Colleges at Hallimysore in Holenarasipur taluk, Arehalli in Belur taluk, Sakaleshpur and Terakanambi in Gundlupet taluk too have been catering to the higher education needs of rural students, especially the poor and weaker sections of the society. In such a situation, it is unwise on the part of the Government to shift the Colleges to other locations citing poor admissions (less than 100 students), he maintained.

Claiming that there were over 20 Colleges in the State which have a poor record of admissions (less than 100 students), Marithibbegowda said that it was unfair on the part of the Govt. to shift only six Colleges, with five of them located in his Constituency. He alleged that four of them are being shifted to Bengaluru City and two to Belagaavi.

Urging the Government to revoke the shifting order, he warned of staging a massive demonstration in front of Dr. Ashwathnarayan's Office at Bengaluru, along with hundreds of students studying in these Colleges, if the Government failed to drop the shifting move.

Exemption of two months electricity bills: MSME Council urges industries to apply

Mysuru, June 11 (KS)- As

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have suffered huge losses following COVID-19 lockdown, electricity companies have exempted MSMEs from paying electricity bills for two months, said MSME Council General Secretary Suresh Kumar Jain.

In a press release, Jain has urged those running MSMEs such as printing press, laundry shops, tailoring business etc., to contact the Assistant Engineer of their concerned CESC Sub-Divisions and give their applications. Such industrialists should produce the copies of Udyog Aadhaar and electricity bill received before May 8, 2020 along with the application and the MSME Council for its members has readied the Udyog Aadhaar memorandum, MSME data bank and the electricity bill exemption application.

The MSME Council has in a press release urged its members to make use of the opportunity. For more details, log on to: *www.msmemysuru.com* or *www.mysuruindustries.in* or contact Mob: 99986444654.

'Do not allow conversion of wetlands for commercial purposes in Kodagu'

Mysuru, June 11 (BCT)- The

Biddappa

Mysore City Pensioners Association has urged the Kodagu Deputy Commissioner (DC) not to accord approval or No Objection Certificate (NOC) for conversion of wetlands/paddy lands for commercial purposes, housing colonies and layouts to protect the fragile ecosystem of Kodagu that was ravaged by two years of back-to-back floods and landslides.

In a letter to DC Annies Kanmani Joy, President of the Association K.C. Biddappa has said that relaxing regulations to build commercial premises by converting agricultural land will spell doom for the district again and vulnerable areas include areas close to the river and slope areas of the district must be watched so that development will not take place.

The recent dilution of the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961, through an amendment to Section 109 enabling direct purchase of agricultural land from farmers is a disaster that can be avoided. Floods and landslides in 2018 and 2019 wreaked havoc on the tiny district and more than 20 people have been killed and scarred for life due to the devastation. "Unbridled urbanisation and infrastructure development promoting tourism, construction of resorts and commercial buildings on the mountainous terrain were the main reasons for destruction and sale of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes will devastate the catchment area of the Cauvery River," Biddappa, the former President of Coorg Wildlife Society, stated in his letter.

The regulations over land use were tightened in November 2018 based on recommendations made by the Geographical Survey of India (GSI) three months after the district was ravaged by floods and landslides. Gradually, the rules were relaxed and now the Government has permitted sale of wetlands.

"More than 50-60 percent of the wetlands are left uncultivated due to poor returns by farmers. Wetlands normally gets flooded during monsoon. However, they help in recharge of groundwater bodies/springs ensuring enhanced riverine flow. Unfortunately, these wetlands have become a major source of real estate for construction of housing layouts and commercial buildings by vested interests and land mafia," Biddappa stated in the letter.

"It is a universal fact that buildings built on wetlands are prone to collapse during floods on account of torrential rains posing serious safety issues to the dwellers. These wetlands are crucial to perennial availability of fresh water," he stated and has urged the DC not to issue NOC for conversion of wetland or paddy lands with immediate effect.

Outsourced Hostel workers seek wages for lockdown period

Mysuru, June 11 (PM&DM)- Seeking payment of wages for lockdown period, outsourced workers serving in Hostels, Residential Schools and Ashram Schools run by Government Departments, staged a demonstration under the banner of AITUC affiliated Karnataka Rajya Samyukta Vasathinilaya Karmikara Sangha, in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office here on Tuesday.

Claiming that the Government has issued a circular directing the authorities to pay wages in full to all outsourced (contract) workers for the lockdown period, the protestors alleged that some officials have declined to pay wages, which is unfair.

Urging the authorities to implement the Government circular, they demanded payment of pending wages for those serving in Social Welfare Department, announcement of a special allowance for workers serving in Hostels and Residential Schools which have been turned into Quarantine Centres and appointment of outsourced workers in accordance with their seniority to posts lying vacant in other Government Departments, among other things.

Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

When the Vedas Reached South

The mention of Southern States is conspicuously absent in Vedic literature. Hymns of the Rig Veda date back to 1500 BCE. They refer to the Saptasindhu or Indus Valley region. Shatapatha Brahmana, dated to 800 BCE refers to a movement towards what is now Bihar. In the Aitreya Brahmana, we come across references to the Andhras, Pulindhas, Sabaras and the Pundhras. These are regions associated with Bengal, today known as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and even the Godavari delta. It does not refer to Tamil Nadu. Even Panini's book on grammar, in 6th century BCE refers to Kalinga and nothing beyond.

References to the Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas, the three great kings of South India, come in very clear form, in the Ashoka edicts, in 3rd Century BCE. So, we can be confident that North India was familiar with South India 2,300 years ago. So, somewhere between 2,600 and 2,300 years ago, Vedic ideas penetrated far South.

Memory of this migration is available only in mythology, that may be read by proto-history. We hear of Rishi Agastya taking mountains and rivers of the North to the South. Rishi Dirghatama fathers-sons who become kings of Anga (Bihar), Vanga (Bengal) and Kalinga (Odisha). We hear of Ram's journey to the South and encounters with Vanaras and Rakshasas. Rishi Parashuram is linked with reclaiming the Western coast. Rishi Gautama is linked with bringing Ganga to the South and turning her into Godavari. Rishi Atri and his son Dattatreya are linked to the Krishna river. Rishi Kaundinya travels across the sea to Suvarnadvipa (Southeast Asia) and marries a Naga Princess there. Sri Lankan chronicles have memory of a Lion-Prince travelling from Kalinga to the Southern island where he defeated local Yakshas and Rakshasas and made himself King. The Southern tip of India was long associated with Kumari, a Virgin-Goddess, who awaited her groom, Shiva, who would come for her from the North.

Sangam literature refers to Puranic Gods such as Shiva, Krishna, Kartikeya and Vishnu, indicating they were composed 2,000 years ago when Puranic Hinduism began overshadowing Vedic Hinduism. Indeed, one theory suggests that the Puranic traditions were consolidated in Southern India. Even the Agama texts that describe temple rituals are clearly influenced by old Tamil veneration of hero-stones.

In early Dharmashastras, 2,500 years ago, the homeland of Aryans or Aryavarta is located in North India between Himalayas and Vindhya. In the later Dharmashastras, 2,000 years ago, it is in the entire Indian subcontinent, from North India to the Southern seas. This clearly indicates the gradual shift of Vedic culture. Sangam literature reveals an awareness of the Himalayas and Kanyakumari, of Varuna, the God of Ocean and Sagara, the Gangetic Delta, on the eastern side. There is awareness of the game known as Chaturanga that is dated to 600 CE, and the three goals of life — Dharma, Artha and Kama, referred to in Mahabharata and Chanakya's Arthashastra. All this suggests that by the Gupta period, 1,500 years ago, the Tamil region was well integrated with North Indian society.

But, despite integration with the North, Tamilakam retained its regional identity with its very unique Patron God, the virile man-boy, and twice-married Murugan, holding his lance and standing atop mountain peaks, asserting his spiritual authority.

[devdutt@devdutt.com

Colours of Corona: Rangayana creates awareness on pandemic

DC Abhiram Sankar to inaugurate on June 17

Rangayana Director Addanda Cariappa, Senior artiste Mime Ramesh, Kannada and Culture Assistant Director H. Chennappa and Rangayana Joint Director V.N. Mallikarjunaswamy supervising the art works this morning.

Mysuru, June 11 (MK)- Rangayana premises, which was once abuzz with theatre-lovers, appears to have lost the glare following the COVID-19 lockdown with no theatre activities now. However, amidst this silence with no visitors, Rangayana artistes, led by its Director Addanda C. Cariappa, made sure that the theatre repertory was given time to cleaning by arranging theatre props and documents. Also, with 'Online mode' getting more scope, Rangayana too has started digitalising the benchmark plays staged since its inception.

Apart from all that is being done to keep the theatre house in tact, Rangayana has also taken a step towards creating awareness about the pandemic using the means of colours. The premises is now being painted with the theme 'Kalinga Mardhana by Lord Krishna' likening it to the tackling of 'Coronavirus' by the Corona Warriors.

Banishment of Kaliya, the dreaded multi-hooded serpent, from the river Yamuna by Lord Krishna is one of popular stories from Bhagavata. The Coronavirus, which has become a nemesis for the whole world, has been depicted in these paintings as the venomous Serpent Kaliya, while Corona Warriors are portrayed as Lord Krishna, as all the frontline workers including doctors, nurses, sanitation workers and others are fighting against this pandemic.

The venomous serpent Coronavirus is depicted as creating havoc all across the world after crossing The Great Wall of China, while a Corona Warrior, in this painting a doctor, is holding stethoscope in one hand and the tail of the serpent in the other hand, is seen dancing on the hood of the fierce Coronavirus.

Art designer H.K. Dwarakanath and artist Ranga of Rangayana have conceptualised and crafted these art works.

Following relaxation of lockdown, we have started preparing for numerous theatre and other related activities. With these art works, we are trying to convey a message to people about the importance of wearing masks, maintaining personal hygiene etc. Along with Corona Warriors we should also help fight the pandemic. The art works will be dedicated to Mysureans by Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar on June 17 at 4.30 pm."

—Addanda C. Cariappa, Director, Rangayana, Mysuru

Speaking to *SOM,* Art designer Dwarakanath said, "We are displaying these art works in an effort to create awareness about this pandemic among the general public. The Coronavirus in the form of venomous serpent Kaliya is displayed as creating trouble for the whole world after originating in China and crossing its borders to reach America, Russia, England, Spain, India and other nations. The Corona Warriors are putting in maximum efforts to keep the virus at bay by wearing masks and maintaining social distancing."

Nalwadi Award-2020: DC heads Selection Panel

Mysuru, June 11 (BNR)- District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar had on June 4 announced in city that every year, the District Administration will choose 10 personalities who have served in various fields and honour them in the name of Rajarshi Sri Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, during the birth anniversary celebrations of Nalwadi.

In this view, a Selection Committee has been formed which will be led by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar. Other members are University of Mysore Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar, former Chairman of Janapada Academy Dr. H.S. Ramachandregowda and senior writers Prof. C. Naganna and Dr. N.S. Tharanath.

Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar

Also, Kannada and Culture Assistant Director H. Chennappa has been nominated as the Member-Secretary of the Committee to select Nalwadi Awardees for the year 2020.

The District Minister has written to the Mysuru DC to start the selection process soon, according to a press release.

Vehicles can travel only on

Tavarekatte route to reach Hill temple

Chamundi Hill steps open for climbers

Mysuru, June 11 (RK&DM)- Following the re-opening of Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill from Monday (June 8) after a gap of 76 days post relaxations in COVID lockdown curbs, the District authorities have permitted travel of devotee and tourist vehicles to the hilltop only via Tavarekatte (main entry) on all days from 6 am to 6 pm.

The jurisdictional K.R. Police Inspector Srinivas said that all other entry routes to Chamundi Hill have been shut in view of COVID-19 pandemic and vehicles are permitted to ply only via Tavarekatte main gate.

Pointing out that all vehicles travelling to Chamundi Hill are being checked by Police personnel deployed at the entry point and entered in the Register, he said that vehicles are allowed to travel for 12 hours between 6 am and 6 pm as the temple will be open from 7.30 am to 1pm and 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

There will be ban on vehicle movement from 6 pm till 6am, he said and added that joggers and cyclists too are permitted to use this road only between 6 am and 6 pm.

Entry to the 1000-plus steps leading to Chamundi Hill, which was shut for public and devotees following the lockdown in March, has been re-opened from yesterday (June 10). As the hill steps gate is unlocked, the devotees can climb the steps to the Hill as before by maintaining social distancing and wearing face masks.

JSS AHER moves one up in NIRF rankings

Ramesh Pokhriyal

Suttur Seer

Mysuru, June 11- JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, has moved one up in the rankings among the University rankings and has scaled to 33rd Rank among 1,667 Universities in India this year.

The NIRF Rankings-2020 (National Institutional Ranking Framework) was announced by Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' in New Delhi today (11.6.2020).

Three of the constituent Colleges of JSS AHER are in the top 10 in India. JSS Dental College & Hospital has been placed at the 10th place, JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty, in 9th while JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, has retained its 10th position. JSS Medical College has also retained its position and figures among the top 20 Medical Colleges in the country.

Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara University, Mysuru, was declared Deemed-to-be-University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956, in the year 2008 by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India. JSS AHER was also granted autonomous status under "Institutions Deemed to be Universities (Category-II)" by University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2018.

JSS Academy has significantly strengthened its teaching, research and service efforts to realise its vision and mission under the leadership and patronage of Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, the Chancellor of JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research; Dr. C. G. Betsurmath, Executive Secretary of JSS Mahavidyapeetha; Dr. B. Suresh, Pro-Chancellor and Dr. Surinder Singh, Vice-Chancellor.

These rankings are mainly due to the hard work of the faculty, students, alumni, peers and the guidance by the Management, says a press release from JSS Academy.

Girl riding pillion killed as car rams into bike

She may have saved her life had she worn a helmet: Traffic ACP Sandesh Kumar

Mysuru, June 11 (RK&KS)- A girl, who was riding pillion on a bike was killed when a car rammed into the bike on Bogadi Main Road here on Monday morning.

The deceased is Mary Jennifer (23), a resident of Gayathripuram in city. Jennifer along with her relative Nelson was proceeding to All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) for her ear check up on a bike, when a Maruti Breeza car rammed into the bike on Bogadi Main Road at about 11 am causing serious injuries to Jennifer.

She was rushed to a private hospital, where she was provided first-aid and was later shifted to K.R. Hospital. Jennifer was again shifted to another private hospital for further treatment, where she succumbed to injuries yesterday afternoon, according to the Police.

K.R. Traffic Inspector Jagadish has seized the car besides taking its driver Satish of Varuna village into custody.

Wear helmet compulsorily

Do not ride or sit in the pillion seat without wearing helmet as it could save lives during road accidents, said Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Sandesh Kumar.

Citing the example of Jennifer, who lost her life due to serious head injuries, the ACP said that if she had worn a helmet her life would have been saved.

Continuing, the ACP said that the Police, in a bid to enforce lockdown rules and regulations were not conducting checking against traffic rules violators and added that even after the lockdown relaxation, the Police, on humanitarian grounds were not registering traffic cases and imposing fines on violators. But taking advantage of the situation is not correct, he said.

ACP Sandesh Kumar said that incidents such as helmetless riding, triple riding, traffic signal jumping, riding and driving in one ways, parking vehicles in No Parking zones and driving cars without fastening seat belts were increasing day by day and added that it would become inevitable for the Traffic Police to catch violators and impose fines on them if such violations continue.

Miraculous escape for family as moving car catches fire

Mysuru, June 11 (YDS&KS)- A family from city that was returning from Chamarajanagar in a Maruti Zen car had a miraculous escape, when the moving car caught fire and was completely gutted near Chikkahalli on Mysuru-T. Narasipur Road on Wednesday evening.

Basappa, a resident of Police Layout in city, had been to Chamarajanagar along with his family members in his Maruti Zen (KA-03-MG-8772) and were returning to the city. When they reached near Chikkahalli at about 7.30 pm, Basappa noticed smoke emanating from the bonnet and noticed fire in the engine.

He immediately stopped the car on the roadside and asked his family members to get down and move to a safe distance. Soon, fire engulfed the car and someone in the crowd that was watching informed the Fire Station. Though the Fire and Emergency Services personnel arrived and extinguished the fire, the car was completely gutted by then, according to Varuna Police, who have registered a case.

Falcon Tyres ex-employee among two killed in road accidents

Mysuru, June 11 (KS)- A former Falcon Tyres employee and a senior citizen were killed in separate road accidents in city.

In the first case, M. Kumar (Mangu Kumar), former Assistant Secretary of Falcon Tyres Employees Union, who was proceeding to his native place Manuganahalli village from Mysuru, was killed when he rammed his bike into a tractor from behind near Yelwal last night. He was 38 and leaves behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Bilikere Police, who rushed to the spot, registered a case and shifted the body to MMC&RI mortuary in Mysuru for post-mortem.

In the second case, a 65-year-old woman was killed in a road accident on Yelwal Road here.

The deceased is Sannathayamma, a resident of Dinga village. Sannathayamma was riding pillion on a bike with a relative towards Yelwal from Mysuru side. When the rider tried to overtake a Bolero goods vehicle, the bike mirror got tangled to the goods vehicle's cover resulting in the goods vehicle dragging the bike. As the rider lost control, both fell from the bike and Sannathayamma, who suffered serious head injuries, breathed her last while the rider escaped with minor injuries.

Yelwal Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

Two missing from city

Mysuru, June 11 (KS)- A 66-year-old woman, who left her house on June 7 after a quarrel for petty reasons, has since gone missing. The missing woman is **Ganga**, wife of Parameshwarappa and a resident of J.P. Nagar in city.

Those having any information about the missing woman may contact Vidyaranyapuram Police Station on Ph: 0821-2418122.

In another case, a 19-year-old girl, who left her house on Sept. 29, 2018, saying that she was going for work at a beauty parlour, has since gone missing.

The missing girl is Hemalatha, daughter of Hanumegowda and residing in Vijayanagar Police limits. Those having information about Hemalatha may contact Vijayanagar Police Station on Ph: 0821-2418117/317 or call Police Control Room on Ph: 2418339.

All hurdles will be cleared by month-end

(Continued from page 1)

"Though Congress Government headed by Siddharamaiah had also passed a Cabinet resolution to drop the B-Kharab classification, there were some legal hurdles," Ramdas said.

Principal Secretary's letter

On 30.1.2020, Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department wrote to the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner (DC) seeking details of pending litigations in Courts disputing the B-Kharab classification. "The letter was written with an intention to end the long-standing row. Replying to the letter and after ascertaining facts and examining documents, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, based on a report by Tahsildar, wrote back on 6.3.2020 that no case is pending with respect to the Layouts in the High Court of Karnataka," the MLA said, releasing documents as a proof to his statements.

Ramdas continued and said though the Cabinets headed by Siddharamaiah and Kumaraswamy passed orders to remove B-Kharab classification, there were no follow-ups done at the official level. "After the BJP Government came to power, I, along with the residents, took active interest and relentlessly followed up the issue with the State Advocate General and the Revenue Department Principal Secretary and now, the long-pending problem has gained traction and is seeing a logical end," Ramdas said.

Relief for residents

The Mysuru District Administration, in May 2015, had classified the land coming under the said Survey numbers as 'B-Kharab', following which the MUDA and the MCC stopped issuing land records such as Khatha transfer, building plan approval, CR etc., of sites and other landed properties in CITB (now MUDA) developed Layouts.

These lands were taken over by CITB 70 years back to form Layouts without removing these lands from the 'B-Kharab' classification. Now the Government should rectify the records by taking needed decisions. This inaction of the authorities has caused a lot of hardship to residents and property owners in these Layouts as they cannot do any property transactions.

This official apathy and negligence has made over 25,000 property owners in these MUDA Layouts suffer mentally and financially for the last five years as the B-Kharab classification refrains them from doing any kind of property transactions, be it selling sites, construction of houses or getting bank loans, etc.

Corporators Roopa and Chayadevi and former Corporator Prasanna were present with MLA Ramdas at the press conference.

No power supply in many parts of city tomorrow

Mysuru, June 11 (BNR)- As the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) will be taking up the quarterly maintenance works from 10 am to 5 pm tomorrow (June 12), power supply will be disrupted in the following areas: Gokulam 1st and 2nd Stages, Mahadeshwara Layout, Vijayanagar 1st, 2nd and 3rd Stages, Hinkal, Yadavagiri, Manjunathapura, Mahajana Layout, Vontikoppal, Jayalakshmipuram, CFTRI, DC House, Nurse Quarters, Akashvani, ESI Hospital, Hasu-Karu Park, Gokulam Park, Kalidasa Road, Yadavagri Industrial Area, Vijayanagar Water Tank, Adipampa Road, MMC Ladies Hostel, General K.S. Thimayya Road, Brindavan Extension, Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple and Oyster Bay surroundings.

As cable works are taken up at Ramakrishnanagar Sub-Division limits, power supply will also be disrupted in the following areas: Janathanagar, T.K. Layout, Gangothri, HUDCO, Basaveshwaranagar, Vivekanandanagar, Nagamma Choultry Road, Nimishamba Layout, Srirampura, Devayyanahundi, Madhuvana Layout, Revenue Layout, LIC Colony, BEML Layout, Sharadadevinagar, Niveditanagar, Anandanagar and Bogadi Ashraya Layout surroundings.

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Shift to new DC Office Complex

(Continued from page 1)

Though the Deputy Commissioner had come forward to get all the Offices shifted to the new District Offices Complex before June 2019, a few pending works had hampered the shifting process. The pending works included electrical works, network connections, setting up of compartments and other minor civil works. DC Abhiram G. Sankar has written to the Government seeking completion of all works quickly.

The construction had been entrusted to Pune-based Shirke Construction Technologies Pvt. Limited after calling for a global tender. The massive building is constructed on the lines of Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel in Indo-Saracenic style of architecture.

The building has a built-up area of 22,920 sq. mts with a basement of 9,150 sq. mts, ground floor of 4,720 sq. mts, first floor of 4,500 sq. mts, second floor of 4,550 sq. mts and parking area in basement. By the time the construction was completed, the cost escalated to Rs.84.66 crore.

A total of 11 Departments can be accommodated in the new DC Office Complex. The building also has two lifts that can hold 12 people at a time and a capsule-type glass lift.

Forum Mall Mysuru re-opens

Mysuru, June 11 (KS)- After four rounds of lockdown following COVID-19 pandemic, city's Forum Mall yesterday opened its doors to customers with all necessary safety measures in place.

Addressing a press meet at Patrakarthara Bhavan today, Forum Mall Marketing Manager B.S. Sumanth said that customers and staff would mandatorily undergo thermal screening for body temperature at their respective entry points and customers should pass through the Sanitisation Tunnel placed at the entrance. Safety indication on Arogya Setu app, wearing of mask, sanitisation and social distancing is also mandatory. Footfalls would be monitored and QR code-based contact-less food ordering and billing service at the food court is provided.

He said that retailers have been advised to avoid the use of trial rooms and sanitise the trial rooms every time it is used. Frequent steaming of garments and disinfecting surfaces should be done and apparel brands should either avoid trials or make sure the garment is completely sanitised before being put on display again. Sanitising and fumigation of delivery trucks and materials and safety measures for delivery personnel etc. are being followed. It is advised that customers plan their visit by booking convenient slots on the website – www.forummalls.in and use the E-Pass with the QR code to enter and exit the mall which would also help traffic management inside the mall at any point of time, Sumanth said.

Sanitisation tunnel at the entrance of Forum Mall in city.

Vouchers for Corona Warriors

A cash voucher would be given to Corona Warriors, who come to the mall, which they (Corona Warriors) can purchase or get discount (the amount in the cash voucher) in the purchase bill.

Forum Mall General Manager R. Dhanashekaran and Operating Manager Mohan were present at the press meet.

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